

SHARP Monthly Reader

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Dust: Small Particles can cause BIG programs

MINNEAPOLIS (KMSP)
- Statistically speaking, Kyle Flicker should not be alive.

In February of last year, he arrived at Hennepin County Medical Center in the back of an ambulance. He had third-degree burns over 75 percent of his body--the worst kind of burns, searing through all three layers of skin.

"It was horrible, I guess it's indescribable how insane it was," Flicker said. "I could tell that my skin was flaking off, it was almost like crispy chicken skin."

His condition was so dire that doctors put him into a medically induced coma, saying he had no more than a ten percent chance to live. He was in the coma close to two months, and in the hospital for a total of 159 days. His medical bills reached almost \$2.5 million.

LITTLE KNOWN DANGER

It's all due to a threat that exists in many workplaces across America: combustible dust.

"This is an insidious hazard and I think people

need to be continually reminded about the safety challenges and problems with dust," said Vanessa Allen Sutherland from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

Kyle was grinding rubber material on a lathe at a manufacturing plant in Blaine when a small fire started. Some embers were sucked into the ventilation system which carries dust particles from the factory to a collection room outside the main building. He went in to make sure nothing was burning there.

"On top of the blower vent there was a small little flame, maybe like the size of a lighter's flame," Kyle recalled.

He got on a ladder and reached up to brush the tiny ember aside, that seemingly harmless action changing the course of his life forever.

The air, heavy with combustible dust, exploded--turning him into a human torch. He was trapped with his back against the door, screaming for his life. A co-worker managed to reach in and drag him out.

"I didn't know that this rubber dust was



combustible," Kyle said. "I mean if I would've known that I would've never went in that room."

That lack of knowledge, according to the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, is all too common.

There was a time when grain dust explosions were common in this country. Thirty years ago OSHA set new regulations to minimize the risk, but those standards don't apply to other kinds of dust which, under the right conditions, can be a ticking-time bomb.

In 2003, six workers were killed and 38 injured when rubber dust exploded at a pharmaceutical plant in North Carolina. Five years later, 13 people died and 40 were hurt when a dust explosion ripped through a sugar mill in Georgia.

[Full Article.](#)



Employers showing ‘good faith’ will get more time to comply with silica standard

Washington – Employers who are found to be acting in “good faith” will have an additional 30 days to comply with [OSHA’s Respirable Crystalline Silica in Construction Standard](#), according to a [Sept. 20 memorandum](#) from the agency. The standard is set to go into effect Sept. 23 after a [three-month delay](#).

In the memo sent to regional administrators, OSHA Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary

Thomas Galassi wrote that employers who are making attempts to comply with the new regulations will receive assistance and outreach.

“Given the novelty of the [Table 1 approach](#), OSHA will pay particular attention to assisting employers in fully and properly implementing the controls in the table. OSHA will assist employers who are making good faith efforts to meet the new

requirements to assure understanding and compliance,” the memo states.

However, employers who are not making strides to comply will undergo air monitoring and may receive citations, Galassi wrote. He added that OSHA has created and will disseminate provisional inspection and citation guidelines within 30 days.

[Article.](#)

Need Safety Resources?

During our Safety and Health Conference (09/18-09/20/17), and During the Work Comp Conference. MeM/Worksafe had a booth that has resources available for most types of industries for free on their website.

On their site they have: Expert Insights, Recent News, and Upcoming Seminars. To go along with those three items, their site has Featured Videos and Featured Topics. They also provide a number of pdf files to

help you improve safety in your facilities.

[Website Resource.](#)



Forklift Accident Kills Man at Amazon in Plainfield

Police haven't said just how the accident happened.

PLAINFIELD, Ind.--A forklift accident killed a man at the Amazon facility in Plainfield Sunday, said Jill Lees, spokesperson with Plainfield Police.

Lees said the incident happened about 2:30 p.m. and that when officers arrived paramedics were working on the man, but he died.

She did not give out his name. Police were treating it as an accident

and OSHA was expected to be at the site today to investigate.

Five Ways to Protect Yourself as a Worker

Workplace injuries are unfortunately a common occurrence in the United States. The latest all-inclusive report from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) found that among private industry employers, there were 2.9 million non-fatal workplace injuries and illnesses. This equates to about 3 in every 100 full-time workers being injured on the job.

Despite advances being made in workplace safety, employers don't always do everything they can to prevent injury. Attorney

[Robert Hamparyan](#) says, "A worksite must be handled in certain ways to ensure accidents can be prevented, some organizations allow conditions to become unsafe either as a cost-cutting measure or due to simple negligence." This means it's important to take steps to protect yourself on the job.

With that in mind, here are 5 ways you can protect yourself from workplace negligence and on-the-job injuries.

1. Make Sure You're Up to Date on All Safety Training

2. Be Aware of the Most Common Types of Workplace Injuries

3. Take Care of Potential Injury Conditions When You See Them

4. Only Use Equipment You've Been Properly Trained on Using

5. Know the Proper Procedures for Reporting Accidents in Your Workplace

[Full Article](#)



Safety signs and labels: common challenges

With more than 43 million workers exposed to some form of chemical, nearly every company is affected by the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals in one way or another. Using GHS to classify and label chemicals is not an option – it's a regulation set in place by OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (1910.1200).

Although we're one year into the effective date for GHS, many people still believe it's a complicated process. When simplified, GHS is a logical and comprehensive approach to communicating hazards. Shifting your perception could help you overcome some of the common challenges we see throughout the industry.



Challenge No. 1: Finding the information that needs to go on the GHS sign/label

Challenge No. 2: What are the size requirements for GHS? My container is too small to fit all the required elements.

Challenge No. 3: I have an NFPA and/or the Department of Transportation label – so I don't need GHS because they're similar, right?

[Full Article](#)



Division of Industrial Safety and Health
417 SW Jackson St
Topeka, KS, 66609

Phone: (620) 429-0008
Fax: (785) 296-1775
E-mail:
brian.welch@dol.ks.gov
Safety
shelly.briley@dol.ks.gov
SHARP Coordinator
(785) 224-5040

"Safety is not an object nor something you can measure! It's culture, a value."



Information provided by
OSHA QuickTakes, CSB,
and WorkSafe BC

Video Library

Servicing Tires

First Day on the Job Was His Last

Young Worker Falls from Forklift

Isocyanate Exposures

Mobile Crane: Maintenance and Inspections are Critical

CSB Videos

ExxonMobil LA

ExxonMobil CA

Back to School

Upcoming Events

Plan to join us in 2018 for the 69th Annual Safety and Health Conference - at the DoubleTree by Hilton (Wichita Airport), in Wichita, KS, October 2 - 5, 2018.